

occasion of its 50th anniversary. Established on June 11, 1959 in a small Los Angeles storefront, a handful of Honda associates began selling motorcycles. Fifty years later, American Honda has grown from a single office into a company with significant investments throughout the U.S. and is a leader in fuel economy, safety and environmental technology.

In the midst of the of 1973 oil crisis, Honda introduced the fuel-efficient Civic, marking its official entry into the U.S. market. Two years later, it began market research and new model development activities in America, which today encompass 13 facilities with the capability of complete product creation.

Fast forward to the 1990s, when Honda continued its environmental leadership through investment in advanced internal combustion engines and the introduction in 1999 of the first mass-produced hybrid vehicle in the U.S. On Earth Day of this year, Honda launched the 2010 Insight, a price competitive and exciting new hybrid design.

Starting with eight sales associates in 1959, Honda today employs nearly 28,000 direct employees whose jobs include design, development, manufacturing, sales and service of products ranging from automobiles, motorcycles, ATVs, personal watercraft, outboard marine engines, power equipment and an advanced light jet. Honda's flagship office in Torrance, California employs almost 2,400 people at its sprawling and energy efficient campus.

American Honda has 11 manufacturing plants in the U.S. with two more under construction, 13 research and development facilities, and regional sales, parts, service and finance offices across America. Honda buys parts and materials from 545 U.S. companies in 34 states with annual purchases exceeding \$17.5 billion in 2008.

More than just a carmaker, Honda prides itself on community stewardship. Its U.S. charity arm provided over \$1.8 million in grants last year—including \$75,000 for a local firefighter program.

I offer my hearty congratulations to American Honda, which has established a half century of commitment to investing in this country, innovation and strong environmental leadership. May the next 50 years be just as productive.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A "NATIONAL HEREDITARY HEMORRHAGIC TELANGIECTASIA (HHT) MONTH"

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that affects families across America. This resolution expresses support for the designation of a "National Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia, HHT, Month" as well as other efforts to increase public awareness of the disease. Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) is complex genetic disorder of the blood vessels affecting approximately 70,000 Americans. It is characterized by malformations that occur in major organs, including the lungs, brain, and liver. If left untreated, it can lead to

chronic health problems or even sudden death due to the rupture of blood vessels in major organs.

Unfortunately, due to a widespread lack of knowledge of the disorder, approximately 90 percent of Americans suffering from HHT currently remain undiagnosed. These people are at risk of sudden death or becoming disabled. However, tests exist for the early detection and diagnosis of HHT and certain treatments are available for those suffering from the disease. It is estimated that between 20 and 40 percent of deaths and disabilities resulting from HHT would have been preventable if the condition had been diagnosed.

This resolution aims to reduce future HHT-related deaths and disabilities. The HHT Foundation International's designation of a "National Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia, HHT, Month" and other efforts to educate the public should increase public awareness of the disease, leading to more HHT testing and fewer instances of undiagnosed HHT. Additionally, support for further research will improve outcomes, reduce costs, and increase the quality of life for those living with HHT, while also searching for a cure for the disorder.

This important bill will decrease the suffering of families affected by this devastating disease. It is my goal to improve the quality of life of the approximately 70,000 Americans suffering from HHT. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to make the public aware of this national health problem.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, on June 9, 2009, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children celebrated its 25th anniversary. I stand here today to express my gratitude to an organization that continues to help so many children all across this nation.

In 1984, President Ronald Regan established the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Twenty-five years later, the center has a missing child recovery rate of 97 percent. Within my own district, the organization established The Adam Walsh Child Resource Center, having collected fingerprint data from over 50,000 children, providing help to victim parents, and creating victim prevention programs for south Florida—all steps towards making Florida and American families safer.

A price cannot be placed upon the safety of our children and it is essential that, as lawmakers, we continue to support those organizations who strive to great lengths to protect America's youth. As a Member of Congress, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to ensure the safety and protection of our children.

Madam Speaker, as national security threats continue to grow, threatening our freedom and livelihoods, we must recognize the domestic problems which threaten our society and always be vigilant of those who wish to

cause harm to others. I applaud the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children whose efforts over the past twenty-five years have undoubtedly been at the forefront of keeping our children safer from abduction and sexual exploitation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOLF COURSE PRESERVATION AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Golf Course Preservation and Modernization Act to renovate and modernize the three National Park Service, NPS, golf courses in the District of Columbia. Several years of research, investigation and consulting on ways to improve these courses demonstrate this bill is necessary to turn around the deterioration of these unique and valuable federal assets. Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf Course and East Potomac Golf Course are in desperate need of capital investment to maintain and preserve their historic features and to reverse decades of deterioration.

East Potomac Golf Course was built in 1920 and included three courses that accommodated all levels of play, with an 18-hole tournament level course and two 9-hole practice courses. East Potomac was initially segregated, with African Americans permitted to play only on Mondays. The course was desegregated in 1941 by the Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, following pressure from an African American women golfers club, the Wake Robin Golf Club. Rock Creek Golf Course opened in 1923 as a 9-hole golf course and an additional nine holes were added to make Rock Creek an 18-hole tournament level course in 1926. Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a segregated golf facility for African Americans and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Langston was the home course to the Royal Golf Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club, the nation's first clubs for African American men and women golfers respectively. Langston was named for John Mercer Langston, the first African American Congressman from Virginia elected in 1888. Originally a 9-hole course, Langston's expansion to an 18-hole course began in 1955, but was not completed until the mid 1980s.

The courses were built and have been administered by the NPS since the early 20th century for the enjoyment of the general public. However, despite their best efforts, NPS has had a constant struggle to maintain the courses. None has been modernized and all three courses have fallen into disrepair and lack the amenities necessary to serve the public today. As a result, they are underused considering their value to the public.

NPS was created by Congress to "... conserve the scenery and the natural and historical objects and the wild life therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (16 U.S.C. 1) However, NPS's own backlog of repairs, its chronic funding limitations, and the continuing use of concession

contracts that are inappropriate for the unique capital investment required for golf courses militate against appropriate maintenance, historic preservation and the NPS mission "to leave them unimpaired for the public enjoyment." This bill will restore the original intent of Congress, consistent with this important NPS mission.

The three courses together constitute an undervalued public asset that, if appropriately funded, could be renovated and modernized, facilitating affordable recreation, attracting significantly more golfers, and perhaps producing new revenue for the United States Treasury. Unlike other NPS facilities, golf courses require unique and continuing significant capital investment to keep them not only maintained but operational. As a result for nearly 100 years, the courses have had problems associated with upkeep and insufficient capital investment. Without a ready source for capital investment, apart from appropriations, NPS has continuously struggled to manage and maintain each of these courses since their inception. There is no prospect that the necessary federal funds for capital investment and improvement of golf will be available today or in the future. Moreover, the current fee to play at the golf courses, as established in the concessions contract process, must remain affordable and cannot generate sufficient revenue for NPS or the concessioners to keep the courses properly maintained, or to make the capital investment required for a golf course today. In fact, NPS owes millions of dollars to the concessioner of the golf courses for necessary improvements.

General Services Administration land and real estate professionals and other experts advise that the best option consistent with federal law and practices is to create a long-term ground lease that bundles all three of the courses into a single contract and then to request proposals that allow for response with ideas and alternatives for modernization and maintenance consistent with anticipated use and affordability. This bill requires that historic features of the courses be preserved and that two of the three courses remain affordable to the general public.

The confines of federal concession law inhibited NPS and the concessioner from making improvements to the courses because Federal concession laws are incompatible with golf course operations. Historically, the restrictions of NPS concessions law have been a direct cause of disrepair and capital disinvestment, reducing the quality of play and jeopardizing the historic preservation of the courses. However, the NPS joined two of the three golf courses together for the next seven years under a proposed concession contract that was issued on October 23, 2007. The contract requires only that the next concessioner be able to perform routine repair and maintenance consistent with NPS practice and the limits imposed by concession law. The contract does not and could not impose any requirement that capital improvements be made to the courses, usually guaranteeing that these courses will stay in the same poor condition until 2015. East Potomac was excluded from the proposed concession contract because its concession contract expires next year, not for any reason associated with maintaining and improving the courses for public

use. This separates East Potomac, the only financially viable golf course, from Langston and Rock Creek, the two that need subsidy for their operations. The effect will leave Langston and Rock Creek worse off than they are today. Now the contract for East Potomac is expected to be put out this fall.

This bill would require the new lease for East Potomac to be set to expire on the same date as Langston and Rock Creek leases, binds the three courses into one contract and exempts these golf courses from concession law. This approach applies another vehicle commonly used by the federal government to allow for more creative solutions consistent with the NPS mission to preserve general public access and preserve the historic qualities of the courses. The single long-term ground lease for all three courses, designed outside of the constraints of concession law, provided by this bill would encourage private investment in these courses, improve the quality of the courses, ensure affordable play, and preserve their historic nature.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO RAÚL H. CASTRO

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Raúl H. Castro, Arizona's first Hispanic Governor, who has devoted his life to ensuring democracy for all.

To review the lifelong commitments of Governor Castro is to describe the epitome of the American Dream.

Born in Mexico, he immigrated to a community near Douglas, AZ in his teenage years. The son of a copper miner and a midwife, he overcame great poverty and adversity as a young adult. He was always committed to his family and the need to do something great with his life. In high school he was a stellar athlete and student, which taught him discipline and earned him an athletic scholarship for college. In college, he was an undefeated boxer, winning mostly by knockout and earning the name the "Douglas Destroyer."

Governor Castro worked diligently through school, completing his first degree in higher education in 1939, the same year he became a United States citizen. He worked for the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Service officer in Agua Prieta, Sonora for a period of time, then applied and was accepted at the University of Arizona, where he earned his Juris Doctor degree.

He then practiced law in Tucson, AZ, became deputy Pima County Attorney and was elected Pima County Superior Court Judge. In his six years on the Superior Court bench, he gained a reputation of being fair and grew further respected in the community for his work and commitment to justice.

It wouldn't take long for the country to notice the young judge from Pima County. President Lyndon Johnson appointed Raúl as U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador in 1964, where he served until 1968. He then served as Amba-

sador to Bolivia from 1968–1969, and returned to Tucson to specialize in international law.

His work abroad became a benefit for the state of Arizona. He continued his commitment to his country by becoming active in Arizona Democratic Party politics, and ultimately won a spirited campaign for the governorship in 1974, becoming Arizona's first Hispanic governor.

Governor Castro wouldn't complete his term, President Jimmy Carter selected him to represent the United States again and serve as Ambassador to Argentina, where he served until 1980.

Governor Castro returned to Arizona and devoted more than two decades to practicing law. He has recently retired to Nogales, AZ where he remains involved in the community.

Governor Castro's story is one of inspiration for young and old alike. He has shown all aspects of the American Dream, to work hard, care about your community and success will follow. Arizona and this nation have been blessed by his commitment to democracy and justice.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Governor Castro and thank him for being a role model for so many of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 334, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE LIFE OF G.A. GINDICK

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of G.A. Gindick—an inspirational community leader and philanthropist who touched the lives of all who knew her.

Madam Speaker, I had the honor of representing Mrs. Gindick in Congress. I witnessed her impact on the community of Visalia first-hand. She and her late husband Frank were instrumental in starting the Visalia Boys and Girls Club—an organization that has touched the lives of both the young and young at heart. She was a true booster—a financial supporter and active volunteer.

Mrs. Gindick's dedication to Visalia was full-time. She was a powerful advocate for local art and cultural institutions and was constantly engaged in the defense of Visalia's heritage and quality of life.

She was a tenacious woman; a woman it was hard to say no to; a woman who understood what community meant, and always strove to help those in need.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Gindick will be sorely missed. But because of her enormous heart and lifelong commitment to others, she will not be forgotten.